CLAIMS

I Claim:

1. A method of inquiring of capabilities of a target device comprising:
   a. sending an inquiry command including an opcode and any number of operands over a network from a controller to a target device;
   b. determining at the target device if the target device supports the opcode and operands; and
   c. sending a response command from the target device to the controller over the network informing the controller if the target device supports the opcode and operands.

2. The method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the inquiry command is a control inquiry command.

3. The method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the inquiry command is a status inquiry command.

4. The method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the inquiry command is a notify inquiry command.

5. The method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the network substantially complies with a version of the IEEE 1394 standard.

6. A method of inquiring of capabilities of a target device comprising:

a. sending an inquiry command, selected from a group of a status inquiry command and a notify inquiry command, including an opcode, over a network from a controller to a target device;

b. determining at the target device if the target device supports the opcode; and

c. sending a response command from the target device to the controller over the network informing the controller if the target device supports the opcode.

7. The method as claimed in claim 6 wherein the inquiry command further comprises one or more operands and further wherein determining also includes determining if the target device supports the operands and the response command informs the controller if the target device supports the operands.

8. The method as claimed in claim 6 wherein the inquiry command is a control inquiry command.

9. The method as claimed in claim 6 wherein the inquiry command is a status inquiry command.

10. The method as claimed in claim 6 wherein the inquiry command is a notify inquiry command.

11. The method as claimed in claim 6 wherein the network substantially complies with a version of the IEEE 1394 standard.

12. A control device for communicating with a target device over a network, the control device comprising:

a. means for generating an inquiry command including an opcode and any number of operands; and

b. means for communicating coupled to the means for generating and configured for coupling to the network for sending the inquiry command over the network to the target device and receiving a response command from the target device, wherein the response command includes notification informing the control device if the target device supports the opcode and operands.

13. The control device as claimed in claim 12 wherein the inquiry command is a control inquiry command.

14. The control device as claimed in claim 12 wherein the inquiry command is a status inquiry command.

15. The control device as claimed in claim 12 wherein the inquiry command is a notify inquiry command.

16. The control device as claimed in claim 12 wherein the network substantially complies with a version of the IEEE 1394 standard.

17. A control device configured to communicate with a target device over a network, the control device comprising:

a. a data packet generating circuit to generate an inquiry command including an opcode and any number of operands; and

b. an interface circuit coupled to the data packet generating circuit and configured to couple to the network to send the inquiry command over the network to the

target device and receive a response command from the target device, wherein the response command includes notification informing the control device if the target device supports the opcode and operands.

18. The control device as claimed in claim 17 wherein the inquiry command is a control inquiry command.

19. The control device as claimed in claim 17 wherein the inquiry command is a status inquiry command.

20. The control device as claimed in claim 17 wherein the inquiry command is a notify inquiry command.

21. The control device as claimed in claim 17 wherein the network substantially complies with a version of the IEEE 1394 standard.

22. A control inquiry AV/C command data packet used to inquire about capabilities relative to a control command of a target device over a network comprising:

a. an opcode; and

b. one or more operands.

23. The control inquiry AV/C command data packet as claimed in claim 22 wherein the network substantially complies with a version of the IEEE 1394 standard.

24. A status inquiry AV/C command data packet used to inquire about capabilities relative to a status command of a target device over a network, the status inquiry AV/C command data packet comprising an opcode.

25. The status inquiry AV/C command data packet as claimed in claim 24 further comprising one or more operands.

26. The status inquiry AV/C command data packet as claimed in claim 24 wherein the network substantially complies with a version of the IEEE 1394 standard.

27. A notify inquiry AV/C command data packet used to inquire about capabilities relative to a notify command of a target device over a network, the notify inquiry AV/C command data packet comprising an opcode.

28. The notify inquiry AV/C command data packet as claimed in claim 27 further comprising one or more operands.

29. The notify inquiry AV/C command data packet as claimed in claim 27 wherein the network substantially complies with a version of the IEEE 1394 standard.

30. A method of inquiring of capabilities of a target device from a control device over an IEEE 1394 serial bus comprising:

a. submitting an AV/C inquiry command data packet from a control device over the serial bus to a target device, wherein the inquiry command data packet includes an opcode and any number of operands;

b. receiving the inquiry command data packet at the target device and generating a response data packet therefrom, wherein the response data packet specifies whether the target device supports the opcode and operands; and

c. transmitting the response data packet to the control device.

31. The method as claimed in claim 30 wherein the inquiry command data packet is a control inquiry command.

32. The method as claimed in claim 30 wherein the inquiry command data packet is a status inquiry command.

33. The method as claimed in claim 30 wherein the inquiry command data packet is a notify inquiry command.

34. A network of devices coupled together by a standard IEEE 1394 serial bus comprising:

a. a control device in communication with the standard IEEE 1394 serial bus and configured for sending an inquiry command including an opcode and any number of operands over the standard IEEE 1394 serial bus; and

b. a target device in communication with the standard IEEE 1394 serial bus and configured for receiving the inquiry command, determining if the target device supports the opcode and operands and sending a response command to the control device over the standard IEEE 1394 serial bus informing the control device if the target device supports the opcode and operands.

35. The network of devices as claimed in claim 34 wherein the inquiry command is a control inquiry command.

36. The network of devices as claimed in claim 34 wherein the inquiry command is a status inquiry command.

37. The network of devices as claimed in claim 34 wherein the inquiry command is a notify inquiry command.